

New
Format!

The NORMAL VECTOR

Special
Thanks to
Gary Larson!

Perpendicular to the Plain

III. Circulation:
Cut off at the ...

September 27, 1991

Price:
Hah!

2.

University of Alberta MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES SOCIETY

A BLURB (or After the Social)

With chilled keg and ready taste-buds, the patrons eagerly awaited the flavour of XO. The first Student and Staff Social of the academic year was well attended by undergraduate and graduate students. Mathematics professors balanced out the crowd to provide a lively evening of conversation. Mike Roshko was particularly entertaining with his "write-your-name-in-pretzels" routine and quips about the zoologically-overlooked Sea Monkey†. Those people not involved in conversation were displaying their superior card skills at a games table.



The social was a success for all. Many thanks to the dedicated MSS members who volunteered for organizational and operational tasks. Thanks guys - only two months to wait until the next bash!

- Rhonda Rosychuk, President

* trademark by some beer company, somewhere
† also a Product Name owned by some swindler, somewhere

WHERE IT'S DUE

Due to space limitations in the last issue of *The Normal Vector*, many people did not receive credit for their (mostly solicited) contributions to the production of that paper. Thus, my thanks go out to the following Little People:



- Sol Mumej for suggesting the new slogan; and
- Everyone else who I've forgotten, once again.

Letters, complaints and graft in general can be placed in the envelope on the outside of my office (locker #13, CAB 549). The real neat stuff should be delivered personally. By the way, I'd like someone to suggest an appropriate Waiver of Responsibility.

Finally, someone (and I've forgotten who) has pointed out that *TRIUMPH* is spelled with an F. My apologies to those who think Rob Davis spent his summer at the UBC cheerleading camp.

- Alex Wu, Editorial Staff-In-Chief

The TRAGEDY OF HAIRISM

Who among you has not had a good guffaw at the expense of Blonds? Did you stop and think of the pain you are causing when you reveal "how to tell if a Blond has been using the computer?" Blonds are conditioned to believe that they are fortunate; thus they are rendered blind to their own degradation. Blonds are perhaps the most universally-persecuted, visibly distinct, minority group in our society; and yet in the face of the most pernicious derision they are expected to "have more fun" than others.



Some of you may try to trivialize the issue by suggesting that the problems of Blonds are small in comparison to the tribulations of other groups. While it may be true that Blonds in general have not been butchered by the millions or explicitly enslaved, I contend that their condition is equally severe. The Blond's image of levity and even temperament leads to a lack of credibility. How can a Blond rise to a position of importance when the Blond's appropriate response to any query is to shrug the shoulders and liit, "I don't know?" It is my perception that the Blond icon is less attired than his or her dark-haired counterpart, and of course the relationship between quantity of clothes worn and prestige and power is well-established. Blonds are often referred to as "fair-haired" persons by those who wish to be considered politically correct. But consider for a moment the connotations of the word "fair". Now you can see why we don't associated Blonds with positions of power. Perhaps Blonds are just too damn gorgeous for their own good.

Any person sensitive to the plight of the under-privileged is obligated to rid the world of Hairism. I challenge my readers to rush out to the drugstore today and proudly demand a bottle of hydrogen peroxide. Let this wondrous substance become the symbol of our support for the liberation of Blonds everywhere! Let us set the foundations for educating the masses about Blondness by holding public bleaching rallies. Remember that when you bleach your hair, you are also bleaching your mind. (I regret that I am cheated of the chance to participate - a most foul augury of my esteemed scientific advisor.)

- Sol Mumej [of Dr. Rosy & Mr. Mum fame - Ed.]

AND THUS WE SWEAR

by **AUNTIE DERIVATIVE**

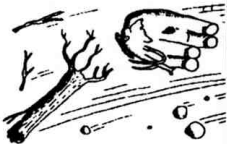
I am a member of the MSS. I realize that with the position of prominence that I will be worshipped and revered by others. Thus, I vow to be the truest embodiment of Cauchy, Gauss and Einstein. I pledge to look favourable upon the Little People: always keeping an open mind. I shall always correct the cashier when she gives me the wrong change, despite her lack of formal education. Integration shall be a regular part of my day: differentiation upon my every thought. I shall not faint at the sight of a Christoffel symbol, nor weaken at the thought of topology. Together we are one; united we shall stand - we *really* hate Gortel! **I AM A MEMBER OF THE MSS!**

Editor's Note: This is the second year that Auntie Derivative will be offering advice to the Great Unwashed via The Normal Vector. Letters addressed to Auntie Derivative can be placed in The Normal Vector mailbox (locker #13, CAB 549).

THE UNDERGROUND CHESS WEEKLY*

Edited by **Jorge Talbott**

* from the tome, Dictionary of Modern Chess, by B. J. Horton.



PART II

KRIEGSPIEL: Requirements - three chessboards, two players and one referee. You are shielded from seeing the referee's board or the board of your opponent. You make your moves upon your board and you try to infer your opponent's moves by rearranging the opposite-coloured pieces on your board. The referee announces when an illegal move, a capture, or a check has occurred. The referee records the legal moves on his board, and he also announces the direction from which the check is being given: long or short diagonal, rank or file, or from a Knight.



MAIDEN'S GAME: This oddball game is reminiscent of Losing Chess [Part I - Ed.]. The objective is to checkmate your opponent, but you are obliged to capture whenever possible.

GREAT CHESS: Also known as "Andrew Dice Chess" (sorry). This game should be tried once for the novelty. Requirements - one six-sided die and one chess set. Each face of the die corresponds to one of the six chess pieces. You roll to move. You forfeit your move when no legal move can be made. The game is complete when a player's King has been removed from the board.

ANGELO'S

is proud to present ...

The 2 o'clock,
Tragically Thursday,
Butthole October
Brains 17, 1991

with special guest ...

Ma's Yer Uncle!

THINGS TO KNOW, PEOPLE TO SEE, & USEFUL INFO

NEXT GENERAL MEETING OF THE MSS:

- October 1, 1991 @ 3pm, CAB 335
- topics include: football & T-shirts

THE OFFICIAL SECRET ANTHEM:

- *Dazed and Confused* by Led Zeppelin

NORMAL VECTOR PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

- Usually after I feel like it.

SEA MONKEYS ARE BEST WHEN:

- sucked through a straw
- stapled to whole-wheat crackers
- broiled with a magnifying glass
- just back from a heavy date with Elvis
- stewed in the cup of a contact lens
- they help you with your Classical Dynamics assignment
- roasted in a (naked) singularity (no hair)